**Sky Bus Project**

1957. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has approved "Sky-Bus Project" for Mapusa-Panaji stretch in Goa to be implemented by Konkan Railways on a pilot and experimental basis;

(b) if so, whether financial sanction and administrative approval for its implementation has been granted and what is the anticipated cost per KM; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been laid down for its completion and, if so, by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Trials for proving the technology are yet to be conducted. The cost shall be determined after the trials for technology have been proved.

(c) Yes, Sir. As per estimates of Konkan Railway, the project is likely to be completed in a time frame of two years from the date of financial closure and grant of right of way.

**Palace on wheels in Karnataka**

1958. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the train "Palace on Wheels" in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Railways has conducted a feasibility study;

(c) if so, the gist of the feasibility report; and

(d) by when, will it be introduced in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (d) An MoU has been signed between the Indian Railways and the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) for running of a luxury tourist train in Karnataka.

The feasibility study has been conducted by the KSTDC and the project is to be commissioned by them.

**Provision of trollies at Delhi Railway Stations**

†1959. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would provide trollies at three major railway stations — New Delhi,Old Delhi and Nizamuddin in Delhi so that passengers could carry their luggage on the said trollies and levy nominal charges on maintenance of such trollies; and

(b) if so, the scheme of Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) These trolleys are not likely to be useful at the above three stations on account of design of the stations.

**Vacancies in Railways**

1960. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are over 70,000 vacancies in the Indian Railways at present, which is adversely affecting efficiency in the Railways;

(b) the number of vacancies as on 30th November, 2003, zone-wise and cadre-wise; and

(c) The steps taken/proposed to fill these vacancies so as to bring the situation to the level of normalcy to the extent possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Member is probably referring to the vacancies in Safety, Security and Operational Categories. Occurrence of vacancies due to retirement/superannuation, resignation etc. being a continuous process, there are bound to be a few vacancies

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.